

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A document processing system and method are disclosed which are capable of performing inverse retrieval in response to a request issued by a user and providing retrieved document data to the user. Characteristic information indicating a specified electronic document or category is transmitted from a terminal device to a document providing device. The document providing device retrieves electronic documents related to the characteristic information from electronic documents stored in a database. Information about the retrieved electronic documents, such as electronic documents themselves or a list of the retrieved electronic documents, is transmitted from the document providing device to the terminal device.